

1998

## Canyon Ferry Statement

Max S. Baucus

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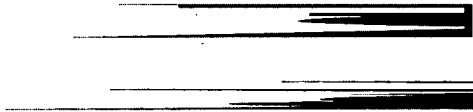
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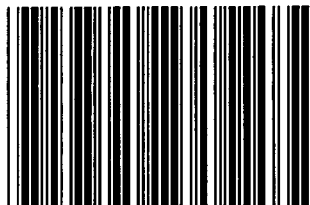
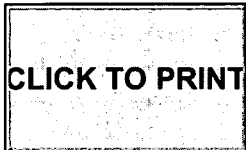
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BAUCUS

## Mayor's Statement for New Article

Four months ago, Senator Burns and I introduced a bi-partisan bill to resolve a long-standing controversy at Canyon Ferry. It was enthusiastically supported by over 200 Montanans who attended our public hearing in Helena. While we both recognized that the bill would require some fine tuning, we agreed that it was a significant first step. And, we agreed to work together to support this legislation in order to further the interests of Montanans.

Naturally, I am very disappointed that Senator Burns has now chosen to abandon that bipartisan approach and introduce a new, separate bill with Congressman Hill. I had invited Congressman Hill to join Senator Burns and ~~I~~ in our bipartisan effort. Their introduction of this new bill undermines my effort to have us work together as a delegation for the best interests of Montanans. And, this new measure will delay our ability to get Congress to pass this legislation this year.

I still believe that we should pass legislation that will enable the cabin owners to purchase their cabin sites and use those proceeds to purchase additional public lands for all Montanans to enjoy. While I do not support Senator Burns and Congressman Hill's proposal to use the proceeds from the cabin sales to fund infrastructure improvements instead of expanding our public lands, I stand ready and willing to work with them to find other resources to fund such improvements. And, I have suggested many alternatives for them to consider in recent months. *tell why*

I again call on Senator Burns and Congressman Hill - as I did during our delegation breakfast last week - to lay aside partisan politics and work with me in a bipartisan manner to finalize a bill which will serve the best interests of Montanans. The people of Montana deserve no less.